

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 FEAE-00

COME-00 /068 W

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R 261915Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 42

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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FOL TEL RCVD FROM RIO DE JANEIRO 26 JUN 75 SENT ACTION BRASILIA

INFO SAO PAULO BEING RPTD FOR YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RIO DE JANEIRO 2009

E.O.11652 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BR

SUBJECT: URANIUM

1. LAST WEEK STANLEY DAYTON, EDITOR OF ENGINEERING AND MINING JOURNAL, AND ERNEST MCCRARY, MCGRAW-HILL CORRESPONDENT IN BUENOS AIRES, CALLED ON DR. JOHN FORMAN, NUCLEBRAS DIRECTOR IN CHARGE OF MINERAL EXPLORATION. (DESPITE HIS NAME, FORMAN IS BRAZILIAN.)

2. ACCORDING TO MCCRARY, FORMAN WAS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS WHETHER THE NUCLEAR PACT WITH WEST GERMANY CALLS FOR BRAZIL TO SUPPLY URANIUM TO GERMANY, AND IF SO, HOW MUCH. WHENEVER THE DISCUSSION TOUCHED ON THAT SUBJECT, FORMAN FIRMLY STATED, "WE ARE HERE

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TO TALK ABOUT OUR URANIUM EXPLORATION PROGRAM AND NOTHING ELSE." MCCRARY SAID HE LEARNED LITTLE THAT

WAS NEW ABOUT THAT PROGRAM OR ITS RESULTS. FORMAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE FIGURE OF 10,000 METRIC TONS OF ESTIMATED RESERVES (IN TERMS OF URANIUM OXIDE, OR YELLOW-CAKE) WAS STILL THE BEST ESTIMATE, ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT INTENSIVE EFFORTS HOPEFULLY WILL REVEAL CONSIDERABLY MORE. AS TO THE ESTIMATE OF 500,000 TONS WHICH HAS BEEN MENTIONED IN THE PRESS, FORMAN SAID IT WAS BASED ON EXTRAPOLATIONS WHICH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT: 1) SOUTHWEST AFRICA'S RESERVES (THE DEPOSITS THERE ARE SIMILAR TO BRAZIL'S); 2) THE AMOUNT OF AREA IN WHICH IT IS FOUND AND 3) HOW MUCH BRAZILIAN TERRITORY HAS SIMILAR GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS.

3. COMMENT: FOREIGN GEOLOGISTS BASED IN RIO ARE IN SOME DISAGREEMENT OVER BRAZIL'S URANIUM PROSPECTS. SOME BELIEVE THAT THE MINERAL IS NOT PRESENT IN GREAT QUANTITY: EFFORTS MADE DURING THE PAST 15 YEARS (INCLUDING BY USG AND FRENCH GOVERNMENT GEOLOGISTS) HAVE TURNED UP RELATIVELY LITTLE. THE MAJORITY OF GEOLOGISTS WITH WHOM WE TALK, HOWEVER, FEEL THAT THE GEOLOGY IS RIGHT AND THAT BRAZIL WILL INDEED BECOME A MAJOR PRODUCER ONE DAY, ESPECIALLY WITH THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT IS GOING INTO THE EFFORT. MOST OF THESE SAME GEOLOGISTS, THOUGH, CONSIDER THE EXPLORATION APPROACH TO DATE BY THE GOB (BY CNEN, CPRM, NUCLEBRAS AND CBTN BEFORE IT, PROJETO RADAM, ET AL) TO HAVE BEEN RATHER HAPHAZARD. AS ONE GEOLOGIST SAID, "I KNOW WHERE URANIUM IS IN BRAZIL AND HOW TO FIND MORE, BUT I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO TELL ANYONE UNLESS THEY ALLOW PRIVATE COMPANIES TO LOOK FOR IT." IN THIS CONNECTION, SEE PAGE 10 OF BRASILIA A-103. ALTHOUGH NUCLEBRAS LEGISLATION PERMITS SUBSIDIARIES TO BE FORMED FOR EXPLORATION WITH PRIVATE COMPANIES (AS LONG AS NUCLEBRAS HOLDS AT LEAST 51 PERCENT OF THE VOTING SHARES), MINERALS COMMUNITY HERE DOES NOT EXPECT TO SEE THAT PROVISION IMPLEMENTED WITH ANYONE OTHER THAN WEST GERMANY INTERESTS. ACCORDING TO JUNE 25 ESTADO DE SAO PAULO ARTICLE DATE-LINED BONN, AGREEMENT IS TO BE SIGNED JUNE 27
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CREATING A CONSORTIUM FOR URANIUM EXPLORATION BETWEEN NUCLEBRAS AND URANGESELLSCHAFT, AN AFFILIATE OF STEAG.
DEXTER
UNQUOTE
CRIMMINS

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